

**HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
FULL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
November 28, 2007, 4:30 p.m.
Council Chambers**

PRESENT

Trena Carter
Tony McClendon
Akua Ofori-Boateng
Gil Palmer
Rosalind Pegram
John Roberts

ABSENT

Ian Kohen
Jay Myers
Greg Lewis
Jason Staley
John Stroh

***** Meeting Called to Order *****

VISITORS:

Courtney Jackson, Judy Jackson, Lionel Wilkinson and Chuck Boll

STAFF PRESENT:

Director Arlette Tinsley, Deputy Director Lorraine Smith and Secretary Lula Young.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Secretary Roberts called roll then requested any corrections or changes to the October Minutes.

Commissioner Carter moved to accept the October 31, 2007 Minutes. Commissioner Ofori-Boateng seconded. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Commissioner Ofori-Boateng reported as there was no budget activity in November, the Donations balance remained at \$5,669.60.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Director Tinsley reported on an extremely busy month for complaint intakes. She informed Commissioners that many of the complaints were filed with other agencies as the local ordinance doesn't require employers to reasonably accommodate disabled employees.

The Director went on to advise Commissioners about recent issues within the community and that the Chairperson was called upon for assistance by the mayor, police chief and staff to assist in addressing concerns raised by the African-American community.

Director Tinsley addressed the recent changes incorporated by Jackson County law enforcement and their collaboration with Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE) to deport illegal immigrants that have been incarcerated. Director Tinsley shared concerns recently voiced at an Immigration Issues Forum meeting by social service advocates and others about ICE requirements that all local charges against the immigrant offender be dropped before they will begin the deportation process. Discussion ensued.

OPEN FORUM:

African-American Male National Conference (AAMNC)

Secretary Young introduced two students who received Commission scholarships to attend the African-American male conference in Indianapolis on October 19th. The two students were Courtney Jackson, a junior at Bethel Holiness Academy, accompanied by her mother, Judy Jackson and Lionel Wilkinson, a junior at East High School.

Both students thanked Commissioners for providing the opportunity for them to attend the conference. Lionel advised that he was surprised to see the correlation of violent lyrics in rap songs to the increase in murder rates and that he previously hadn't considered the lyrics as a significant factor. He went on to advise that he would be more aware of what he chooses to listen to and be more diligent in his pursuit of his career and future.

Courtney advised that she was surprised to learn the statistics that only 60% of black males graduate from high school. The information helped her to realize that she needs to keep going and strive to accomplish her educational goals. She also stated that she would modify the music she listens to.

Commissioners continued their discussion with the students, inquiring about their most significant experience at the conference and what tools or suggestions were provided to support their new awareness.

Commissioner Carter moved to table agenda items 9 through 12 until the next full Commission meeting. Commissioner McClendon seconded. Motion carried.

Commissioner McClendon moved to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Carter seconded. Meeting adjourned.